

Atwood Town – Atwood Cable Response

Prior to submitting the grant application for Atwood town, Nex-Tech reviewed the publicly available FCC Form 477 data and the interactive FCC Broadband map. At that time, Atwood Cable Systems was showing a maximum 50Mbps download speed for the town of Atwood on the FCC website. The 477 data has been updated on the FCC interactive Broadband map since Nex-Tech submitted the application. Even with the latest updates, Atwood Cable Systems is still showing a maximum download speed of 50 Mbps. The BDC polygon diagram for HFC plant submitted with the challenge does not reflect the speeds available within the polygon and there were no speed tests submitted with the challenge. In addition, the Internet rates published on the Atwood Cable Systems website as of August 4, 2022, were advertising a maximum speed of 35Mbps download and 10Mbps upload (see screenshot below) so the website has been updated since the grant applications were submitted.

SERVICE RATES



CABLE TELEVISION



Expanded-basic TV service includes sixty-eight channels. Doing our best to offer the most popular channels for a reasonable rate. Service is included on every TV in your home for one low monthly price. We offer exclusive local programming not available elsewhere, as well as rebroadcasting of local high school sports provided on the internet by Open Space Sports, Inc. Atwood Cable is fast, friendly and worry-free local service.

Service:
Expanded-Basic TV
HBO

Monthly Price:
\$72.00*
\$18.99*

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND INTERNET



Atwood's fastest, most reliable & best valued internet service.†**
Unlimited access, no caps on data usage. Five free email addresses are included.

Internet Plan:	Download up to:	Upload up to:	Monthly Price:
X200	5 Mbps	1.5 Mbps	\$29.99
X300	10 Mbps	3 Mbps	\$39.99
X400	15 Mbps	3 Mbps	\$49.99
X500	25 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$59.99
X600	30 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$69.99
X700	35 Mbps	10 Mbps	\$79.99

Static IP \$14.99

DIGITAL TELEPHONE SERVICE



Unlimited local & long distance calling, including calls to Canada. Directory listing included in our local phonebooks (Business service includes listing in the business directory.) Some of FREE features including:

Nex-Tech has been providing telecommunications services to northwest and central Kansas for over seventy years and has been an Internet service provider since 1996. Nex-Tech started offering dial-up

internet service to the Atwood community more than twenty years ago (prior to Atwood Cable Systems) and has been providing fixed wireless internet service for more than fifteen years. Nex-Tech's fixed wireless system has been upgraded multiple times over the years and it currently serves a significant market share of Atwood residential customers. This grant makes it feasible to provide a future-proof state-of-the art fiber network for Atwood which would be superior to the fixed wireless currently being offered by Nex-Tech and the HFC currently being operated by Atwood Cable Systems.

Nex-Tech's four applications will serve the town of Atwood and the entire rural area of Rawlins County. By submitting applications for Atwood town and Atwood rural areas, Nex-Tech intends to provide quality fiber broadband service to the entire county, not just the town. Atwood Cable Systems does not service the entire rural area of Rawlins County and Nex-Tech is the best opportunity for those areas to receive better service. Providing service to the collective town and rural areas allows for more subscriber density to improve the long-term sustainability of the projects.

Nex-Tech has received additional support comments from customers wanting Nex-Tech services in Atwood, including this from a customer that has a business along the highway. This customer was able to connect to fiber last year, due to the Broadband Acceleration Grant which brought fiber to Bird City, KS. "We have been lucky owning businesses on Hwy 36 in Atwood to get Nex-Tech fiber services at three of our businesses. We have choices but the other choices have not been reliable. We have been a Nex-Tech customer for our IT needs for fifteen years and they have been a very reliable company. It would be great to have Nex-Tech fiber available for all businesses and residents in Atwood. I won't have fiber at my residence unless it is Nex-Tech. I feel fiber is very important for a small town to have available and we need a company that will be competitive and reliable. Please consider supporting Nex-Tech Fiber Internet."

The Capital Project Fund is poised to create a substantial positive impact to the people that live and work in rural Kansas, not just in the near future, but for decades to come. Nex-Tech felt it was important to give these families, business owners and community members a voice. In order to better understand their need for fiber Internet, Nex-Tech created an online form located on the website at <https://www.nex-tech.com/Fiber.aspx> to gather public comments of support.

Below are the responses Nex-Tech received from this online form in support of our Capital Project Fund Application. The addresses of the responses have been redacted for Propriety Information but can be provided upon request.

Date Submitted	Name	Town	Comments
9/19/2022 9:13	Rural Resident	McDonald	NexTech would be a great asset to our rural town. We have phone service off and on. We do not have reliable broadband. We need to think about our next generation.
9/19/2022 19:25	Nancy Vap	Atwood	I want Nex-Tech fiber optic internet at my house and farm because Hughes Net/Wildblue/Satellite DSL service is slow and unreliable. I should not be penalized because I live in a rural setting.
9/19/2022 19:26	John Vap	Atwood	I want Nex-Tech fiber optic internet at my house and my family farm because Hughes Net/Wildblue/Satellite DSL service is slow and unreliable. Also the city internet provider does not go outside of the city limits I should not be penalized because I live in a rural setting.
9/20/2022 15:39	Scott Chvatal	Atwood	We have been lucky owing businesses on Hwy 36 in Atwood to get Nex-Tech fiber services at 3 of our businesses. We have choices but the other choices have not been reliable. We have been a Nex-Tech customer for our IT needs for 15 years and they have been a very reliable company. It would be great to have Nex-Tech fiber available for all businesses and residents in Atwood. I won't have fiber at my residence unless it is Nex-Tech. I feel fiber is very important for a small town to have available and we need a company that will be competitive and reliable. Please consider supporting Nex-Tech Fiber Internet.
9/20/2022 16:42	Sharleen Wurm	Rural East of Herndon	Living in the rural area of the should not keep us from having good internet. We have the antenna that comes off of Traer tower. But when the weather is bad... yep NO internet.
9/20/2022 16:46	Phil Wurm	Rural East of Herndon	Our internet is iffy here, especially in bad weather. I'm ready for a change.
9/20/2022 19:47	Kenny Chartier	Herndon	I would like fiber internet for the faster speeds with a more affordable price. We run a small internet based business. We ship our products world wide. It would be beneficial to us to have faster and more reliable internet. We have the fasted available internet @ 50Mb download speeds. We also pay nearly \$200 per month to have this internet. Thank you for helping our small communities. Kenny Chartier Quality Plus Watchbands 785-626-6237
9/21/2022 9:41	Kelsey Wahrman	Herndon	I run a home business and we use the internet for our day to day operations and our current internet could be faster. We also stream movies and tv shows and a lot of times we have connection errors.
9/21/2022 9:44	City of Herndon	Herndon	The city relies on internet for everything and faster speeds would be a huge benefit to the city as well as our citizens. Several of our citizens cannot get internet due to the line of sight to the location of the internet equipment currently utilized by Nex-tech
9/21/2022 9:46	Rawlins County Fire District #1	Herndon	As a fire department we do online trainings and with our current internet there are times that we have connection errors and it affects the streaming for the trainings.
9/21/2022 14:07	Joe and Vicki Schmidt	Ludell	I want Nex-Tech fiber internet because I need it! I am a faithful customer of Nex-Tech for many years. We live in a rural area that is just remote enough from any town having available high speed internet. We presently have Nex-Tech wi-fi brought into our home with a "point to point", thanks to your great technician and service man, Chris Kaiser! He is knowledgeable, quick to respond and explains well. Nex-tech now provides us with mediocre internet for a big price, but that is the only option where we live. We are an agriculture business that help raise your food. It is important we stay updated on the changing markets as well as technology in all areas of our business. A shiny penny in your pocket has the same value as the dirty, dull penny on the ground. It may take more effort to pick it up, but it DOES have the same value. Please consider Rawlins County and Nex-Tech for this important grant. Thank you!

9/21/2022 14:08 Tanner Schmidt	Ludell	Our current options for internet are very limited and none of them are fast enough to meet our needs. I am a self employed farmer and I'm in need of faster speeds to take care of daily business. My wife works at home occasionally and needs faster internet and also my daughter requires online video therapy several times a week. We also do streaming on our tv instead of paying for satellite. Our current internet comes from cell phone towers and we can only have 1 device connected at a time.
9/21/2022 15:58 Jennifer Davis	Herndon	I want Fiber in Herndon to assist with my day to day operations at my insurance agency. It would increase productivity and also help aide me in providing insurance services to more or our rural community. Another reason for Fiber is to have access to quality and consistent VOIP services so when our very unreliable phone lines go out we are able to still have phone service. 98% of our business is conducted via the phone.
9/21/2022 21:15 Tricia Runkle	McDonald	Before I moved to Rawlins County, I had fiber optic internet. I have multiple devices in my home and I have had better experience with fiber optic being faster and able to handle it.
9/22/2022 9:04 Linda Wright	Atwood	I have family that live in rural Rawlins County. It would be nice for them to have a reliable internet.
9/22/2022 12:03 McDonald Grocery	McDonald	To help out business run better
9/22/2022 13:42 Pattie Wolters	Atwood	To have dependable fast internet. As we move to more streaming I find interruptions or slow downs in the internet service we have with Nex-Tech. Right now our family has a tower we built on a ridge to the south of our farm with a solar panel that sends the Nex Tech internet to our farm. Fiber internet would eliminate many of the problems we can have right now.
9/23/2022 12:46 Dianne C. Vap	Ludell	Internet service can be very sporadic and expensive where we live.